

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 12, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-123)

TO: Gerald McClintock
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

Proposed Action: East Fork Holistic Restoration – Salmon River East Fork (SEF) 10 & 11

Project No: 2002-065-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis

(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement – Fishways, 4.1 Irrigation Water Management, 4.2 Water Measuring Devices, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens, 4.25 Consolidation/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: Custer County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (Bureau of Reclamation has provided project support)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund a project that will improve fish passage at Salmon River East Fork diversion 10 and 11. This project is a cooperative effort between the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and local irrigators. The goal of this project is to reduce the number of migration hazards and improve fish passage and habitat by consolidating SEF 10 and 11, abandoning SEF 10, and delivering water to the SEF 10 irrigation system through the SEF 11 system.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Al Simpson with the Bureau of Reclamation (July 16, 2003) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses, sockeye salmon, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, and bull trout. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the SEF 10 & 11 project to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 1, 2003. Based on the BA and subsequent discussions with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS, BPA determined that the proposed actions would have no effect on gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses and sockeye salmon. BPA also determined that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout, and that the proposed actions may adversely affect chinook salmon and steelhead. In addition, BPA determined that the proposed actions may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat for chinook salmon.

USFWS issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on July 7, 2003. NOAA Fisheries issued a Biological Opinion for the project on August 29, 2003 (see attached). NOAA Fisheries concluded that the proposed actions were not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Snake River spring/summer

chinook salmon and Snake River steelhead and their designated critical habitat. Within the Biological Opinion, NOAA Fisheries identified a set of Reasonable and Prudent Measures and nondiscretionary Terms and Conditions for the project that are designed to minimize take of spring chinook and steelhead and minimize potential effects to Essential Fish Habitat. All identified Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions contained in the attached Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources survey of the SEF 10 & 11 project sites was completed by the U.S. Forest Service. An intuitive-complete cultural survey was conducted within the project areas. No cultural resources were discovered as a result of the surveys. Based on these findings, BPA concluded that there would be no effect on prehistoric or historic resources associated with the SEF 10 & 11 project. In the unlikely event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity will be discontinued and the area secured until the finds can be inspected and assessed by a qualified archaeologist. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concurred with these findings and recommendations on October 3, 2001.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the culvert replacement activities. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all required local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the SEF 10 & 11 projects. Articles have been published in the local newspapers, the projects have been discussed at the Upper Salmon Watershed Project meetings, and draft design documents have been circulated to agencies, landowners, irrigators and the Shoshone Bannock Tribe for review.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 9-12-03

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Tom McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 9-12-03

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion, August 29, 2003
USFWS Letter of Concurrence, July 7, 2003
Determination of Significance and Effect prepared for NRCS (NRCS-01-3204)

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Karma Bragg – Custer Soil and Water Conservation District
Mr. Al Simpson – Bureau of Reclamation